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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
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Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

United States of America: draft resolution

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,[5]

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must comply with the obligations they have assumed under the various international instruments to which they are a party,

Welcoming the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III) annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[4] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

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Welcoming also the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan, convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium on 10 and 11 December 2001,

Welcoming further developments in Afghanistan that will allow for all Afghans to enjoy inalienable rights and freedom unfettered by oppression and terror,

Welcoming the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political and economic life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

Welcoming also the fact that women hold two seats in the Afghan Interim Administration and are included in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga,

Welcoming further the signing by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women,

Welcoming the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs and contributions of women and girls,

Expressing its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly the women and girls,

1. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the Afghan Interim Administration to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments;

2. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Administration to continue to make progress in ensuring:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of all their human rights;

(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society;

(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and encourages the international community to continue to provide funding and

technical assistance so that the Ministry can develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to protect women's human rights and support initiatives to end violence against them, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate effectively in political and economic life and in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and to increase their economic security;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes, and to that end, encourages such measures as the establishment of culturally sensitive programmes to sensitize Afghan officials, ministry staff and technical departments concerning international principles of human rights and gender equality;

6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of Afghanistan is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Encourages* United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts to employ more women in their programmes in Afghanistan, particularly at the decision-making level, to ensure, inter alia, the functioning of all programmes in order to better address the needs of the female population;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.